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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/627,833	07/25/2003	Masahiko Konno	TWA89USA	3736
7590	04/07/2005			
George A. Smith, Jr. Box 457 Spring House, PA 19477			EXAMINER JOHNSON, VICKY A	
			ART UNIT 3682	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/627,833	Applicant(s) KONNO, MASAHIKO	
	Examiner Vicky A. Johnson	Art Unit 3682	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 July 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/25/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on July 25, 2003 has not been scanned into the file; an inquiry into the document has been made. Accordingly, the foreign document JP2540896 has been considered by the examiner.

Drawings

3. Figure 8 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Art Unit: 3682

5. Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 2, 3, and 4 recite the limitation "the plunger" in lines 3, 5, and 5 respectively. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Biedermann (US 4,713,043) in view of Loeffler (FR 2736123).

Biedermann discloses a movable guide for an endless, flexible power transmission medium comprising an elongated slide rail (124) for sliding engagement with the transmission medium with the direction of elongation of the slide rail extending along the direction of travel of said transmission medium, a support extending along the slide rail in the direction of elongation thereof (unnumbered, see Fig 3), for supporting said slide rail, said support being pivotable (146) adjacent one end thereof, and having a plunger-contacting portion (140) adjacent an opposite end thereof, said elongated slide rail, said rail support, and said plunger-contacting portion being sandwich-molded.

Art Unit: 3682

Biedermann does not disclose the device having a unitary molded core composed of a first, high-strength polymer resin, parts of said unitary molded core forming interior parts of said rail, said rail support and said plunger-contacting portion, and a skin layer composed of a wear-resistant, second polymer resin, said skin layer entirely covering the outer surface of said core.

Loeffler discloses a device having a unitary molded core (30) composed of a first, high-strength polymer resin (abstract), parts of said unitary molded core forming interior parts of said rail, said rail support and said plunger-contacting portion (see Fig 2), and a skin layer composed of a wear-resistant, second polymer resin (abstract), said skin layer (13) entirely covering the outer surface of said core (see Fig 2).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Biedermann to include a skin layer as taught by Loeffler in order to decrease abrasion.

Re claim 2, Biedermann shows the plunger-contacting portion includes a side wall (see Fig 4) for limiting lateral shift of the guide relative to the plunger of a tensioner, said side wall extending along the direction of travel of said transmission medium (see Fig 4).

Re claims 3 and 4, Biedermann shows the plunger-contacting portion has an outer surface with an arc-shaped longitudinal cross-section (see Fig 3), whereby the plunger-contacting portion may be maintained in contact with the axial center of the plunger of a tensioner, as the plunger moves toward and away from a transmission medium in sliding engagement with the slide rail.

Art Unit: 3682

8. Claims 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Biedermann (US 4,713,043) in view of Loeffler (FR 2736123) as applied to claims 1-4 above, and further in view of Fujiwara et al (US 6,428,899).

Biedermann discloses a guide as described above made from a first glass fiber reinforced resin, and a second polymer resin having wear resistant properties.

Biedermann does not disclose the first polymer resin being a glass fiber-reinforced polyamide 66 resin, and said second polymer resin is a polyamide 66 resin or a polyamide 46 resin.

Fujiwara et al teaches the use of a chain guide made of a glass fiber-reinforced polyamide 66 resin. Fujiwara et al also teaches the use of a polyamide 46 resin for a chain guide because it is optimum for wear resistance.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a glass fiber-reinforced polyamide 66 resin as the first polymer of Biedermann, and use polyamide 46 resin as the second polymer of Biedermann in view of the teaching of Fujiwara et al in order to reduce cost and increase wear resistance.

Double Patenting

9. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double

Art Unit: 3682

patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

10. Claims 1-16 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-12 of copending Application No. 10/648,157. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because they are obvious variants in the breath and scope of the claims.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

11. Claims 1-16 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 of copending Application No. 10/648,637. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because they are obvious variants in the breath and scope of the claims.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

6,612,952	Simpson et al	(concave)
6,036,613	Diehm	(guide rail)


Art Unit: 3682

6,336,881	Rapp et al	(coating)
6,086,498	Hashimoto	(convex)
10213192	Kodama	(coating)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vicky A. Johnson whose telephone number is (703) 305-3013. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:00a-3:30p).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Bucci can be reached on (703) 308-3668 or (571) 272-7099. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Vicky A. Johnson
Examiner
Art Unit 3682